

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3010

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1807

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, ET, GW

SUBJECT: DEFECTION OF ETHIOPIAN IN WEST BERLIN

REF: ADDIS ABABA 9689 (NOTAL)

1. THE BRITISH MISSION, WHICH MADE INQUIRIES WITH THE WEST BERLIN SENAT AND POLICE, HAS PROVIDED US WITH SOME FURTHER INFORMATION ON DEFECTION CASE REPORTED REFTEL. ACCORDING TO BRITISH, FRG FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTED BERLIN POLICE IN EARLY AUGUST ABOUT NEED TO PROVIDE PROTECTION TO ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION THAT INTENDED TO COME TO BERLIN IN CONNECTION WITH 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS IN EUROPE WHICH WAS TO BE HELD IN CITY AUGUST 9-15. DECISION WAS MADE THAT NO SPECIAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES WERE REQUIRED.

2. MAJOR NEGASH PRESENTED HIMSELF AT SENAT CHANCELLERY AUGUST 9 IN COMPANY OF A SENAT INTERPRETER AND REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM. HE WAS PASSED ON TO OFFICES OF SENATOR FOR INTERIOR AND THEN TO FOREIGNERS
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POLICE WHO ATTEMPTED TO CONFIRM THAT HE WAS WHO HE

SAID HE WAS. WITH HIS IDENTITY ESTABLISHED, MAJOR NEGASH WAS THEN FLOWN ON SAME DAY TO FRG REFUGEE CENTER AT ZIRNDORF IN BAVARIA WHERE APPLICANTS FOR ASYLUM ARE HOUSED PENDING DECISIONS ON THEIR CASES. MAJOR NEGASH SUBMITTED HIS FORMAL APPLICATION FOR ASYLUM AUGUST 10 TO THE FEDERAL OFFICE FOR THE RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN REFUGEES.

3. WE ARE ADVISED THAT MAJOR NEGASH TOLD THE SENAT INTERPRETER AUGUST 9 THAT HE WISHED TO STAY IN WEST GERMANY FOR A TIME AND THEN RETURN HOME TO FIGHT IN AN UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT.

4. BRITISH HAVE RAISED QUESTION WHETHER SENAT ACTED PROPERLY IN MOVING MAJOR NEGASH OUT TO FRG WITHOUT FIRST OFFERING ALLIES OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH HIM. WE HAVE TOLD BRITISH THAT WE HAVE NO COMPLAINT WITH SENAT'S HANDLING OF MATTER AND BELIEVE IT JUST AS WELL THAT FRG IS OUT FRONT ON ANY COMPLICATIONS THAT MIGHT ARISE FROM CASE. WE WOULD OF COURSE EXPECT SENAT TO BRING ALLIES INTO CASE AT ONCE WERE INDIVIDUAL REQUESTING ASYLUM A SOVIET OR OTHER EAST EUROPEAN SINCE ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BERLIN SECURITY QUESTIONS WOULD THEN BE BROUGHT INTO SHARPER FOCUS. GEORGE

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